

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, here we are, the government has shut down. It's amazing some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have political amnesia, sort of revisionist history. Let's just look at some of the facts.

The other side of the aisle, the Democrats, took over in 2008. We haven't had a Federal budget since 2008. The only way we got a budget this year from the United States Senate was a provision that the Republicans passed: "No budget, no pay." We had to force them by passing a law and embarrassing them to pass a budget.

How did we get in this situation? And this is a very critical financial situation for the United States of America, for all Americans. The shutdown is very unfortunate, but sometimes you have to take dramatic steps to move forward. We got in this situation because the other side—controlling the House, the Senate, and the White House in 2008—went on a spending binge unprecedented in the history of mankind in any government.

The first year they spent more than \$1.5 trillion more than we took in. From 2008 to current, we went from a \$9 trillion deficit to \$17 trillion; nearly doubled it in 5 years—every year spending out of control.

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We put the brakes on a bit. This is about funding the government for this next year that starts today.

In 2 weeks, we will reach the maximum limit of the indebtedness of the United States. We can't let the United States become a Greece or a deadbeat nation. But stop and think, they are going to ask for another trillion—\$900 billion in debt and deficit limits for the United States.

At some point, you have to say enough is enough. Now, I Googled last night to see my comments on the shutdown. I put in "Mica shutdown." Sometimes we forget what has happened.

In August of 2011, I chaired the Transportation Committee and came to the floor. The other side had controlled the House, the Senate and the White House, and they could not pass an FAA bill. They did 20 extensions costing millions and millions of dollars leaving the FAA—an important agency—in turmoil.

Finally, I said: Enough is enough. I sent over an extension to Mr. REID—it was a clean extension—except it cut out his \$3,720 per airline ticket subsidy. I am not kidding. In Nevada, one of his airports was getting \$3,720.

So rather than take that, we had a partial shutdown of the FAA. Recall that. Just Google it and you will see. I was called the "Shutdown King." For 2 weeks they pilloried me. They called me an "extortionist." They said I was a "one-man Tea Party terrorist." They

accused me of holding a gun to the Senate's head.

We did pass an FAA bill. We got an important part of our government working again.

I don't like to take those tough measures. We have tried to be reasonable. None of us on our side of the aisle voted for ObamaCare. The other side voted for it, and they told us that we could read the bill afterwards, and we would find out what is in it. We found out what is in it. We tried and we voted more than 40 times to repeal it. We tried in a reasonable fashion. We sent over three times proposals to do some of the things that even the President has done, and that is delaying mandates. He carved out exceptions for everybody, except for individuals.

So here we are. They don't want to compromise. They didn't show up for work on Sunday at all. They came in yesterday. How would you like to show up for work at 2 when things are going to heck in a handbasket and then reject a proposal?

We can't revise history. We have got to work together; we have got to get this done. We have offered a conference to sit down, and we can get the job done. Sometimes it is tough.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I take no pleasure in coming down to the House floor to talk about the government shutting down today.

I represent the metro Atlanta suburbs, Mr. Speaker; and we got a lot of CDC employees in my district. I know everybody has got important Federal functions going on in their district; but I will tell you what the CDC does is honest to goodness life and death business—serious, serious business. I want to see the CDC open, I want to see the CDC funded, I want to see the CDC making America proud, as it has year after year.

We have to look at how we got here today, Mr. Speaker. I have been in Congress 2½ years and the sad fact is in those 2½ years there has only been one time that I felt like the White House gave two hoots what my constituents cared about, just one time. That was in the debt ceiling debate in August of 2011. One time. It was a crisis circumstance, a crisis like a government shutdown—the only time the President came to knock on the door to say how do you think we ought to handle it, how do your 700,000 constituents believe we ought to handle it, how can we come together and make something happen? And we did. We came together, and we made a difference.

Mr. Speaker, I remember coming to this Chamber as a young man. I sat over there, I sat right over there in the gallery, Mr. Speaker. I looked over there on the House floor and there was absolutely no one here. I don't mean

not many people here, I mean absolutely no one here. I happened to have the misfortune of being here coming to see the Congress on a day when the Congress was not in session. There wasn't a thing going on.

Mr. Speaker, where we are now in 2013, where the President's new position is, I will never negotiate, period, never, ever; where the Senate's new position is we do not need to have conversations with the House, we have the President of the United States on our team and so we never need to negotiate, ever—Mr. Speaker, if that is what we are going to have here in America, not only should I take my Constitution and toss it out the door, we should just go ahead and turn the lights off altogether. We shouldn't have to have a young man sitting in the balcony wondering why the place is closed down. We should just go ahead and confess that the reason the House no longer meets is because the President no longer cares what the people's House has to say.

Mr. Speaker, I hear it over and over again: it's the law of the land; we should follow it. Now, I happened to hear it in the context of the President's health care bill. I don't hear it in the context of immigration law, for example, where the President just decides what it is that he wants to do, and he just goes out and implements it on his own. I don't hear it in the context of Federal drug law where the President decides, do you know what, these laws aren't as important as those laws so I'm just not going to enforce those anymore. And I don't hear it in the context of the President's health care bill, Mr. Speaker, for the literally thousands of exemptions he has already given to the law because he knows parts of it are unworkable.

Now, we have to confess, Mr. Speaker: America moves in fits and starts. The pendulum swings back and forth. I have to give the President credit for bringing the discussion of health care in this country to a new place. He absolutely did. He brought attention to folks who are uninsured who can't find insurance. Not only did he bring attention to it, Mr. Speaker, really we have created a majority of America that believes we ought to do something and solve that problem.

But instead of solving that problem, the President re-regulated America's entire health care industry. There is not a man or woman in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, there is not a man or woman representing Americans in the U.S. House of Representatives who doesn't have someone in their district who has lost their health insurance because of the President's health care bill.

If you like your health insurance, you can keep it, was the promise. Do you remember the promise, Mr. Speaker? If you like your health insurance, you can keep it. That promise hasn't just been broken, that promise has been virtually erased from America's